

Nova Scotia

Minerals Update



Department of Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy Branch

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Energy Strategy Seizes the Opportunity

Nova Scotia's energy strategy *Seizing the Opportunity* was released in December 2001, capping a year of intensive effort by staff from the Minerals and Energy Branch and the Nova Scotia Petroleum Directorate. Much has changed since the province's last energy strategy was released in 1991, including natural gas and oil discoveries in the offshore and development of the Cohasset-Panuke oil project and the Sable Offshore Energy Project. There have also been significant pressures for change in electricity markets, use of indigenous coal, and control of greenhouse gas emissions. For these and many other reasons, the time had arrived to develop strategies that will allow us to take full advantage of our energy resources in the future.

Three major goals were set for the energy strategy:

- to create a world-class energy sector that achieves sustainable economic development, in balance with high social and environmental standards;
- to optimize financial, economic and social benefits in the rapidly expanding offshore energy sector; and
- to improve the quality of the province's environment and enhance the quality of life of its citizens.

The Process

In early 2001, the energy strategy team prepared a discussion document entitled "Powering Nova Scotia's Economy", which provided background and a focus for consultation. It was decided early on that development of the energy strategy would be as inclusive and transparent as possible, and to this end a web site was established where

all relevant documents, submissions, and information were posted. Seven public meetings around the province provided opportunities for the public to become engaged in the process. In June, the Premier's Energy Forum was held at St. Mary's University. Experts from energy sectors across Canada, the US and Europe attended this forum and provided input on a wide range of issues. Through the summer, the committee interviewed a full spectrum of stakeholders, most of whom submitted information that was posted on the web site.

The Strategy

The energy strategy was released in two documents. Volume 1 is a 48 page summary of the strategy's principal elements. It presents an integrated description and action plan of the strategic directions that government has chosen to guide our future energy decision making. Volume 2 is a more comprehensive document comprising a series of background papers covering the entire range of strategic issues. The background papers provide detailed information on the various energy sectors, and on Nova Scotia's plan to deal with challenges and take advantage of opportunities in these sectors.

The energy strategy is written around three principal themes:

Powering the Economy The strategy identifies the need to create and sustain an environment in which energy resources can be economically developed in a manner that benefits all Nova Scotians. One of the principal focuses of this is the wise development of oil and gas resources. The strategy points out that we must encourage exploration, so that new resources can be discovered and developed. It highlights the need for Nova Scotia to provide a competitive business climate in order to attract much-needed invest-

(Continued from page 1)

ment in the oil and gas sector, and the need for Nova Scotians and the industry to work together to ensure that the province achieves maximum benefits from oil and gas developments.

The strategy mandates some significant changes to the electricity industry. Initial steps toward a more competitive electricity market will include the opening of wholesale markets to competition, limited opening of the Nova Scotia Power Inc. transmission facilities, and steps to encourage the development of renewable energy, including voluntary targets for new renewable energy production and the eventual establishment of a renewable portfolio standard.

The strategy recognizes the important role of coal in the province's fuel mix, and commits government to support the use of indigenous coal, where economically feasible and environmentally appropriate, and to seek opportunities to participate in the development of clean coal technologies that will reduce the en-

vironmental impacts of burning coal.

Improving the Environment The energy strategy contains measures to reduce harmful air emissions from energy production and use, and to contribute to long term management of ocean resources. Government will reduce emissions of SO₂, nitrous oxides (NO_x), mercury and particulate matter, which collectively contribute to acid rain, ground-level ozone, smog and toxins in ecosystems. With respect to greenhouse gases, the energy strategy incorporates a Nova Scotia Climate Change Strategy, which mandates a number of first steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and commits the province to participate in the national climate change process to ensure that national decisions to reduce greenhouse gases do not impose an unfair or unreasonable burden on this province's economy.

Securing Our Future The energy strategy views non-renewable resources as a "bridge to the future", and an opportunity to build our economy in a way

that will eventually lead to a future where renewable energy sources are dominant. The strategy calls for development of the province's research and development capacity in energy-related sectors, and the eventual establishment of a heritage trust fund from offshore royalties, to ensure that the benefits of exploiting this non-renewable resource today are also enjoyed by generations to come.

Implementation

The energy strategy states: "A strategy is excellent only if it is executed exceptionally well". One significant step in this direction will be the formation of a Department of Energy in the 2002-03 fiscal year. This new department will be responsible for implementing the strategy and for dealing with all issues related to energy in the province.

The energy strategy is available in hard copy or CD from the Department of Natural Resources or the Petroleum Directorate, or over the web at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/energystrategy/>.

Scott Swinden

New Underground Hydrocarbons Storage Act

The Sable Offshore Energy Project (SOEP) is in full swing, with gas flowing daily through the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline to markets in New England. The second major offshore energy project, PanCanadian's Deep Panuke Project, is now on the horizon. In addition, there are several offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration projects that could result in an increase in Nova Scotia's oil and gas reserves. As with other energy sources, such as electricity, there are well-defined peaks and valleys in gas consumption. It is important to be able to store hydrocarbons during periods of low consumption and draw from these reserves during periods of high demand.

The most economic storage sites for hydrocarbons are in underground caverns, commonly developed in salt structures. This method of underground storage is employed throughout the southern United States and in southern Ontario. Nova Scotia has numerous large salt structures. These salt deposits have been creating economic activity for Nova Scotians since the first under-

ground salt mine in Canada opened at Malagash in 1918.

Several companies have targeted Nova Scotia salt structures for underground gas storage. In light of this activity, DNR and the Nova Scotia Petroleum Directorate have worked together to develop a new *Underground Hydrocarbons Storage Act* to replace the *Gas Storage Exploration Act*. The new legislation was passed during the fall session of the Nova Scotia legislature, and will be proclaimed when the associated regulations and Code of Practice have been completed. The regulations are expected to be ready in mid-2002.

Under the new act, DNR's role is focused on management of the geological resource, ensuring that exploration and delineation of suitable geological structures is carried out to an appropriate standard, and that the nature of the salt (halite and/or potash) resource is sufficiently well understood that a determination can be made as to whether gas storage is indeed the best use of the resource.

After such a determination has

been made for a specific geological structure, the Petroleum Directorate (and eventually the new Department of Energy) will assume administrative and regulatory responsibility. Approvals for the construction and operation of underground hydrocarbon storage facilities will be the responsibility of the Utilities and Review Board (UARB).

These legislative revisions will help to streamline the process of permitting for underground gas storage, and will provide an up-to-date set of regulations for the operation of underground gas storage facilities. As well, an essential component for the development of a petrochemical industry is the availability of storage capacity for petroleum feedstock. The new legislation establishes the regulatory framework for development of underground storage of hydrocarbons in Nova Scotia's salt structures. These are exciting times in the oil and gas industry in Nova Scotia. Clearly, mineral resources continue to play an important part in new hydrocarbon developments.

Mike MacDonald and Rick Ratcliffe

Branch Celebrates 25th Annual Fall Conference

The 2001 Mining Matters for Nova Scotia conference was held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel on Thursday and Friday, November 8 and 9, 2001. This was the 25th anniversary for the annual Fall conference and several special events were held in recognition of this milestone.

Events actually began on November 7, with a field trip led by Rick Horne and Howard Donohoe, and attended by 75 eager participants. The field trip featured stops at five sites, including: Shaw Resources' silica sand operation in Hardwood Lands; LaFarge Canada's cement plant in Brookfield; Titanium Corporation Inc.'s titanium sands project in the Shubenacadie River; Fundy Gypsum Company's gypsum mine and mill at Miller Creek; and Scotia Slate Products' slate pit and plant at Roulston Corner. Even the inclement weather, itself a conference tradition, couldn't dampen the participants' enthusiasm for a great trip.

On November 8, in the bright and comfortable facilities of the Westin hotel, the convention opened with exhibitors from mineral producing companies, prospectors and exploration companies, service and supply companies, and geoscientists from DNR, local universities, and representatives from the Ottawa and Dartmouth offices of Natural Resources Canada.

One of the highlights of this year's conference was a display of pottery techniques by Ezra Morrell, an artist from Cape Breton Island. Ezra was on hand, complete with his potter's wheel, to shape pots and other items using red clay from a recently discovered deposit near Port Hood. This clay deposit was discovered during field activities as part of the Targeted Geoscience Initiative in southwestern Cape Breton Island (see *N. S. Minerals Update*, vol. 18, no. 3).

Nova Scotia has a vibrant prospecting community, with over 600 registered members. The prospectors were well represented, with ten displays showcasing the fruits of their exploration work. Two members of the Nova



Former ministers (from L) Joel Matheson, Don Downe, Ken Streach, and Ken MacAskill join Minister Ernest Fage (R) to cut the 25th Anniversary cake. Inset: Avarud Hudgins accepts an award of merit for his contributions to Nova Scotia's mineral development.

Scotia Prospectors Association, John O'Sullivan and Lindsay Allen, brought gold pans and a bucket of pay-dirt, and showed delegates how to find gold the good old-fashioned way!

One of the most successful prospectors in Nova Scotia's history, Avarud Hudgins, was honoured for his accomplishments at a reception on November 8 (see photo). Mr Hudgins has been involved with countless discoveries, including the Gays River lead-zinc, Loch Lomond celestite, East Kemptville tin, and Brookfield barite mines. In presenting the award, DNR geologist George O'Reilly noted that Mr. Hudgins' many discoveries led to the injection of hundreds of millions of dollars into the Nova Scotia economy.

The technical sessions were outstanding in content and presentation. Talks pertaining to mineral development included: the new underground gold mine near Port Dufferin; exploration activity for titanium-bearing sands in the Shubenacadie River; and development activities for kaolin and quartz near Yarmouth. Andy Rencz from Natural Resources Canada spoke about the problems of mercury in Kejimikujik National Park, where loons have ex-

tremely high concentrations of mercury in their blood. Tony Andrews, Executive Director of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, challenged some conventional approaches to building public trust in his keynote address entitled *Public Image of the Mining Industry: Myths and Realities*.

In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the conference, organizers invited former employees of the Minerals Branch to attend the evening reception on November 8. A slide show featured photos of various activities from the past quarter century. The great turn-out for the reception attests to the fond memories that people have for their days spent with the branch. It was particularly noteworthy that four former Mines Ministers, Joel Matheson, Don Downe, Ken Streach and Ken MacAskill, were on hand to help the current Minister, Ernest Fage, cut an anniversary cake (see photo).

There was something for everyone at the 2001 Mining Matters conference. Plans are already underway for the 2002 conference, slated for November 13 and 14, 2002, at the Westin hotel. Mark the dates on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Mike MacDonald

The Great Canadian Mine Show: Learning about Minerals and Mining

Only a few times in the past decade have I seen such excitement. Students in classes coming to the Great Canadian Mine Show were keenly interested in learning about mining operations close up and hands on. The Great Canadian Mine Show provided the venue and in Nova Scotia more than 2,700 students, teachers, chaperones and visitors were delighted with their visit.

Between September 19 and October 4, 2001, the Great Canadian Mine Show was located at four museums across the province: the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro, the Museum of Natural History in Halifax, the Museum of Industry in Stellarton, and the Cape Breton Miners Museum in Glace Bay. At each museum, school classes rotated between hands-on, interactive learning sites and the Mine Show. Volunteers from the museums and the mineral industry staffed the sites and helped to animate the exhibits in the Mine Show trailer.

A modified eighteen wheeler houses the Mine Show. The floor of the trailer extends out on either side, enlarging the display space by threefold. Flying a virtual helicopter is only one of nine hands-on activities in the trailer that showcase Canada's mineral industry. Through the use of interactive learning, cutting edge software, and innovative displays the designers of the Mine Show have encouraged visitors to experience exploration, mining, and reclamation. A visitor to the Mine Show can enter a boardroom prepared to argue for developing a mineral project, operate a jumbo drill underground, track a piece of ore from mine to mill, and fly a helicopter.

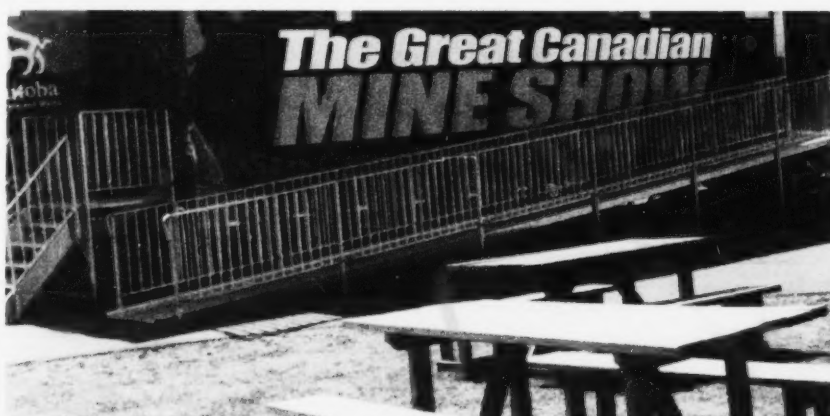
Support for bringing the Mine Show to Nova Scotia was generous, and represented a broad spectrum of Nova Scotia mineral industry organizations. The Committee that organized the event

would like to recognize these companies and organizations for their financial assistance: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, National Gypsum (Canada) Ltd., Nova Construction Company Limited, Tusket Mining Inc., The Canadian Salt Company Limited, the Shaw Group Limited, LaFarge Canada Inc., Sifto

Canada Inc., and Conrad Brothers Ltd.

The Mine Show's visit to Nova Scotia was truly a success story. It helped to dispel myths about mining and showed visitors how modern mining creates employment and prosperity while using cutting edge technology and being sensitive to environmental concerns.

Howard Donohoe



The Great Canadian Mine Show sets up for visitors at the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro.



Using the interactive decision-making display, students face some tough questions about how they will mine and reclaim a mineral deposit. The display calculates how well your company has done after the passage of twenty virtual years.

From the Mineral Inventory Files

The Cobalt-bearing Bass River Magnetite Deposits

In the last issue I championed the Mt. Thom Cu-Co prospect as a member of the economically important Fe-oxide-Cu-Co-Au class of deposits. In this issue, I would like to highlight a series of Co-bearing magnetite deposits in the vicinity of Bass River, Colchester County (Fig. 1), and describe how these may also fall into this deposit class. The class has diverse end members, ranging from Cu-sulphide-rich breccias, to Cu-sulphide skarns, to massive low-titanium, high-phosphorus magnetite deposits. However, all share the presence of large amounts of Fe-oxides in the ore. I contend that the deposits at Bass River fall into the magnetite subclass, similar to deposits in the Fering district at Kiruna, Sweden.

Prospectors discovered magnetite in boulders along the south crest of the Cobequid Mountains above the Village of Bass River in the late 1930s. The site was not explored further until 1951 when a series of trenches and a magnetometer survey outlined a magnetite-bearing zone 476 m long and up to 60 m wide (Fig. 1). At that time the zone was thought to hold 3 Mt of 40% Fe, but its high pyrite content was considered to render the ore unusable for steel production. Between 1985 and 1989, Lodestone Limited examined several aeromagnetic anomalies along the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault System from Bass River to Economy River (Fig. 1). Magnetite was confirmed to underlie at least four of the anomalies. Lodestone then concentrated its efforts on the main Bass River zone, where it carried out further magnetometer surveys and a six hole diamond-drill program, and extracted a 2,000 tonne bulk sample. It was then that pyrite associated with the magnetite was found to be rich in cobalt, with the average grade of unprocessed magnetite ore being 500 ppm Co, while a sulphide concentrate separated from the ore averaged 0.9% Co.

The magnetite deposits are hosted by fine-grained siltstone and sandstone

of the Carboniferous Londonderry Formation and occur very close to the east-trending Londonderry Fault. The deposits are lens shaped, and dip to the south at 50°. The magnetite zones appear to fill extensional openings created by the intersection the east-trending Londonderry Fault and one of a series of north-trending offsetting faults that occur along the south flank of the Cobequid Mountains (Fig. 1). Banded, recrystallized carbonate along the hanging wall of the magnetite deposits may represent interbedded carbonate rocks or, more likely, is the result of massive carbonate alteration of hydrothermal origin. The magnetite is fine grained and occurs as breccia, fracture-fillings and replacement of the siltstone country rock.

The Bass River magnetite deposits display several features typical of the Fe-

oxide deposit class. There is an obvious spatial relationship to the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone. Furthermore, pyrite-bearing granite, identical to the main phase of the nearby Pleasant Hills Pluton (Fig. 1), occurs as fragments and micro-veinlets within the magnetite breccias. The Pleasant Hills Pluton is Early Carboniferous in age and, more importantly from a genetic viewpoint, is an 'A-type' granite. 'A-type' granites, or granites of alkaline character, are often thought to be likely sources of fluids and metals in the formation of Fe-oxide-Cu-Co-Au deposits. The facts that such an intrusion exists at Bass River, and that both fragments and veins of it are present within the mineralized zones, strongly suggest a genetic link.

George O'Reilly

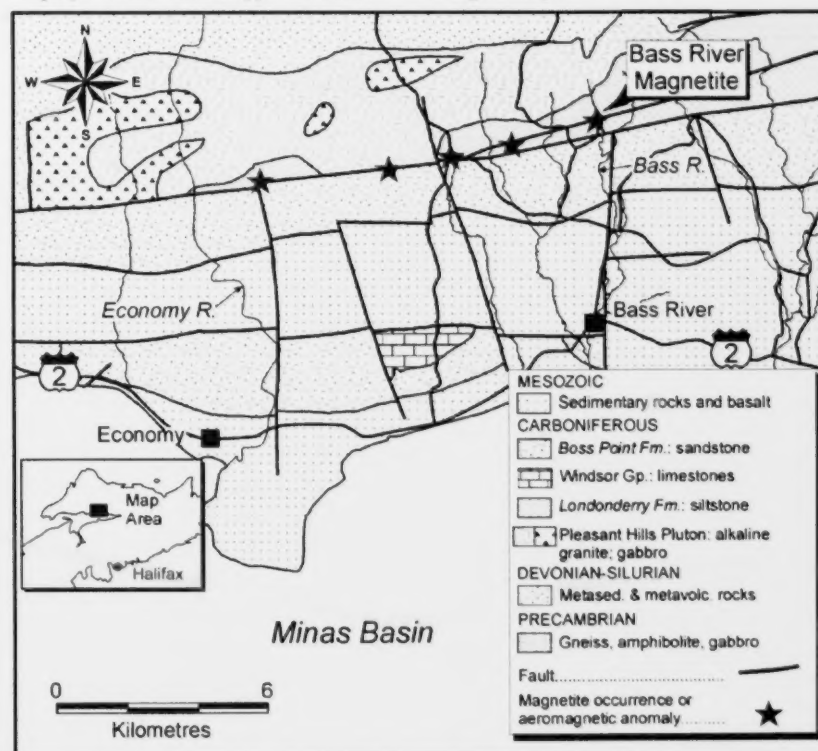


Figure 1. Geology of the Bass River area, showing locations of the magnetite deposits.

Prospecting on the Web

Courses in basic and advanced prospecting have been sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources since 1983. These courses have been offered to encourage prospector training so the 'grass-roots' of the mineral industry can be strengthened. All through this time the department has subsidized the cost of the courses in order to make them financially accessible for as many people as possible. With the end of the Prospector Assistance Program, and budget reductions over the past several years, there is no longer money available for subsidizing the course. Instead the department will create a space on its website (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb>) where you may enroll in the course at no charge.

On December 14, 2001, Nova Scotia Prospectors Association (NSPA) President Joey Collier and prospecting course instructors Dave Dawe, Fenton Isenor, Lyndon Jensen and John O'Sullivan met with Howard Donohoe at DNR to plan the content and operation of a web-based Basic Prospecting Course. The web-based course would build on the existing manuscript for the prospecting manual. The group reviewed the manuscript and decided that the course could be broken into approximately 21 modules that require 15 to 30 minutes of work each. These modules will cover the full range of topics offered in the regular course. At the end of each module the student will be able to test his or her knowledge with a series of short answer questions. When the person submits the answers, the computer will immediately show right and wrong answers. Wrong answers will be accompanied by a full description so the prospector will learn from his or her mistakes.

The group felt that in the future summaries of each of the NSPA field trips should be placed on the web, with accompanying photos and maps. In this way students would be able to take a virtual field trip to many locations in the

Oct. - Dec. Open Assessment Reports

Report Number	Claim Ref. Map	Licensee
AR ME 1999-80	11F/14C	Kelly Rock Limited
AR ME 1999-82	11F/15A	McKay, G A
AR ME 1999-83	21H/01A, D	Geosearch
AR ME 1999-84	11F/15A, B	Schenkels, H F
AR ME 1999-85	11F/05A	Schenkels, H F
AR ME 1999-86	11D/15B	Ellsin Resources Limited
AR ME 1999-87	11E/03C	Ross, J D
	11E/05A	
	11E/06B	
AR ME 1999-88	11F/04D	Prodigy Resources Incorporated
AR ME 1999-89	11D/13A	Allen, L J
AR ME 1999-90	21H/01A, D	House, N
AR ME 1999-91	11E/04B	Hoskin, D C
AR ME 1999-92	11F/04D	Gold'n Crystal Minerals
AR ME 1999-93	11E/03A	Collier, J E
AR ME 1999-94	21H/08B	Reid, J W
AR ME 1999-95	11E/09A	Barrett, A M
AR ME 1999-96	11E/09A	Richman, J
AR ME 1999-97	11F/05A	Schenkels, H F
AR ME 1999-98	11F/05A	Schenkels, H F
AR ME 1999-99	11E/09A	Richman, J
AR ME 1999-101	11E/06D	Morris, G A
AR ME 1999-102	11F/04B	MacNaughton, T
AR ME 1999-103	11E/05A	Roche, M W
AR ME 1999-104	21H/01A	Hansone Limited
AR ME 2000-53	21H/01A	Geosearch
AR ME 2000-62	21H/01D	Hudgins, A D
AR ME 2000-64	21H/03A	Booth, I
AR ME 2000-67	21H/01D	Geosearch
AR ME 2000-69	11F/14B	Marchant, R L
AR ME 2000-75	11E/06D	Morris, G A
AR ME 2001-3	21H/08D	Hudgins, A D

Susan Saunders and Norman Lyttle

province. Through photos they would see the outcrops, host rocks and mineralized rocks.

Everyone at the meeting felt that the web-based course should be augmented by additional half day and full day seminars and workshops. The group suggested that some of the seminar and workshop topics should be first aid, map and compass techniques, identification of minerals and rocks, and government acts and regulations.

The deadline for completion of work on the web-based Basic Prospecting Course is March 2002. The

group will act as an advisory body to Howard and the Department of Natural Resources. They will review text, images and diagrams. This is an exciting project that will have a lot of impact on the prospecting community. Anyone can use the site and many active prospectors may want to refresh their training for various topics. The web-based course offers a lot of flexibility for the user, and the ability to change the text as needed. Look for further announcements in March and April 2002.

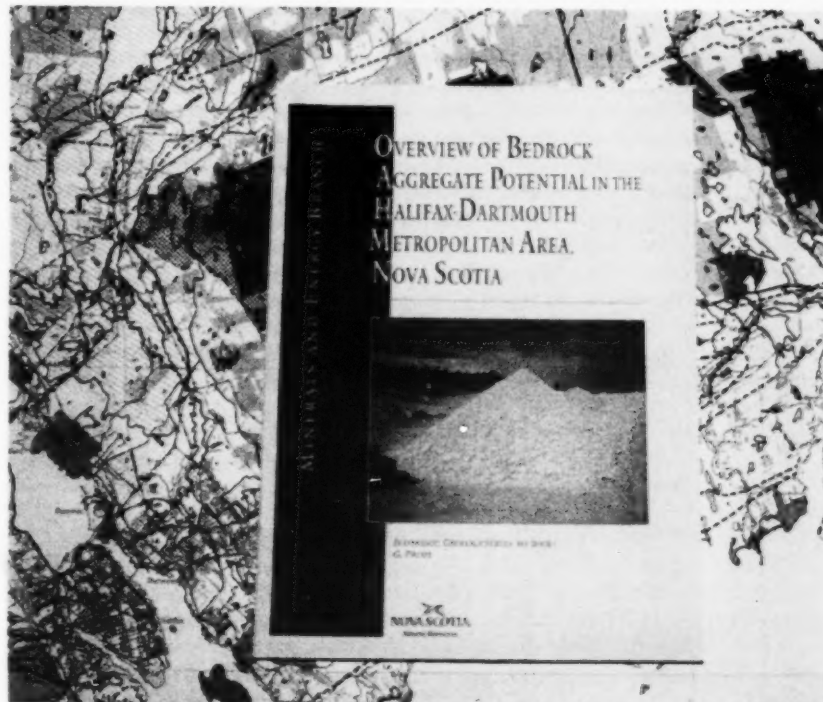
Howard Donohoe

New Report and Maps Examine the Bedrock Aggregate Resource in the Halifax-Dartmouth Area

The Halifax-Dartmouth metropolitan area is the largest aggregate market in Nova Scotia. To put it in perspective, more than one-third of the province's annual stone requirements are used in an area representing less than one percent of the land base. The size of this market is directly related to the large population in the region and recent urban growth. More than 3 million tonnes of aggregate are used in the metro area annually for all aspects of construction.

Ironically, the urban development that fuels the aggregate industry also jeopardizes the future of the local resource. As communities spread to undeveloped and sparsely populated areas, encroachment on the resource land has sterilized much of the aggregate potential. Competing land uses not only affect the resource directly by overlying the resource land, but also commonly threaten much larger areas through environmental regulations and municipal zoning. Blasting regulations, for example, require large buffer zones between quarries and residential areas. A residential dwelling can sterilize as much as two square kilometres of land around it. Added to this is a reduced tolerance for heavy industry, such as quarrying operations, near communities. Concerns usually focus around issues such as noise, dust, blasting, traffic and land values. Many areas of aggregate potential, which conform to legislative requirements regarding separation distances, are still vulnerable to sterilization because of their proximity to communities. Recent attempts to replace dwindling aggregate reserves through the establishment of new quarries have been largely unsuccessful because of land-use issues related to urban development.

If present trends continue, the resource base near the metro market may disappear. As aggregate reserves are exhausted, producers will be forced out of the area due to their inability to open new quarries. A reduction in the number of aggregate suppliers will most likely increase the costs of aggregate due to



Economic Geology Series ME 2001-1 and Open File Maps ME 2001-1 and ME 2001-2 represent the final phase of DNR's Metro Aggregate Project. The project was carried out to assess the bedrock aggregate resource within a 35 km radius of Halifax Harbour.

adjustments in the balance of supply and demand. Ultimately the construction industry may face the loss of the local resource entirely and be forced to meet its aggregate needs from distant sources. Although this may not seem to be a problem, the high costs associated with transporting these widely used bulk materials will have a significant impact on the cost of construction and publicly funded infrastructure.

Based on these resource concerns, a study was conducted under the DNR Aggregate Program to assess the bedrock aggregate resource in metro and nearby areas within a 35 km radius of Halifax Harbour. At the conclusion of two years of field study and a selective sampling program, it was determined that the traditionally used Goldenville Formation quartzite (metagreywacke) and fine- to medium-

grained granitic rocks offer the best bedrock aggregate potential.

The study also examines geotechnical characteristics that may affect the suitability of a rock type or site for quarrying. A digital compilation of existing geological data, used in conjunction with the findings of this study, has resulted in a 1:100 000 aggregate resource map indicating where the aggregate potential is strongest. An accompanying map (at an equal scale) showing land-use restrictions is provided to help identify possible land-use conflicts that may affect the resource potential. The report (Economic Geology Series ME 2001-1) and maps (Open File Maps ME 2001-1 and ME 2001-2) are now available through the DNR Library (Third Floor, Founders Square, 1701 Hollis Street) in Halifax.

Garth Prime

The Prospector's Stake

How do you market a tangible asset such as a mineral property? The answer has many parts. First, I think you should review what you know about the property. Make certain you understand as much of the geology as possible, and show the information on a suitable map. Second, locate all information on assays, analyses, geochemical and geophysical data, and plot this on maps of a suitable scale. Third, bring together previous work on the property with your own work. Hopefully, the result of following these three steps will be a fairly complete picture of the property. Last, be careful not to push the limits of what you know. Clients can quickly tell who is working with what they know and who is working on hot air. Your credibility as a prospector is important, probably even more important than the property itself, and it is one of those intangible assets that we often don't think about. You want to be known as prospector who does good work and reports the results without exaggeration.

A great opportunity to market your property is coming up in March. The Prospector Assistance Program will support twelve prospectors for travel to the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) and the Atlantic Canada Rock Room (see the article below). Each prospector who is selected will receive up to \$1,200 for travel, accommodations and other expenses associated with the trade show. Applications are processed and judged as they arrive. We look for a complete application which has a detailed list of people and companies to contact, and enough work completed on the property to interest potential investors. If you would like to apply for financial assistance to market your property at the PDAC, please contact Howard Donohoe (424-7199) or Mike MacDonald (424-2523).

Howard Donohoe

Atlantic Canada Rock Room 2002

Plans are underway for the Atlantic Canada Rock Room at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention, March 10-13, at the Metro Toronto Trade Centre. The Rock Room has been an integral part of the PDAC for over a decade, dating back to the days when the convention was held at the Royal York Hotel. The Rock Room continues to provide a venue for Atlantic Canadian prospectors to promote their mineral properties to a national and international audience.

Since 1997, Nova Scotia prospectors have received funds to participate in the Atlantic Canada Rock Room through the Marketing Assistance portion of the Prospectors Assistance Program (PAP). The PAP was a four-year, \$600,000 program that expired in the Spring of 2001. Funding was provided by the Canada-Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Economic Diversification through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development. In spite of the expiration of the PAP, some residual funds have been retained and will be used for prospectors to attend PDAC 2002. Application forms can be obtained by contacting Mary Wolfe (phone: 902-424-2525; fax: 902-424-7735; or e-mail mswolfe@gov.ns.ca).

The Atlantic Canada Rock Room reflects a partnership between public- and private-sector agencies and groups throughout the Atlantic Canada region. Specifically, the Rock Room is jointly organized and supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, The Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, The New Brunswick Prospectors and Developers Association, The Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Explorationists. These member agencies have established a mutually beneficial working relationship over the years that will hopefully continue in the future.

Mike MacDonald

Dates to Remember

January 22-25, 2002

British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Cordilleran Exploration Roundup, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver and Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information contact the Chamber (604-681-5328) or e-mail chamber@chamberofmines.bc.ca.

February 8-10, 2002

Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS), Annual Colloquium and General Meeting, Greenway Claymore Inn, Antigonish, N. S. For more information visit the AGS web site (<http://is.dal.ca/~walla/ags/ags.htm>) or contact Brendan Murphy (902-867-2481 or e-mail bmurphy@stfx.ca).

March 10-13, 2002

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), International Convention and Trade Show, North Building, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario. For more information contact the PDAC (416-362-1969 or e-mail info@pdac.ca) or visit their web site www.pdac.ca.

April 9, 2002

Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Chamber of Mineral Resources, Best Western Hotel, Truro, N. S. For more information please contact Terry Daniels (902-798-0187 or e-mail terry.daniels@ns.sympatico.ca).

April 28 to May 1, 2002

CIM Vancouver, Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, Vancouver, B. C. For more information contact the CIM at 514-939-2710.

June 6 and 7, 2002

Mining Society of Nova Scotia, Annual Meeting, Inverary Inn, Baddeck, N. S. For more information contact Sam Schwartz, 2nd V. P. of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, at 902-563-2467.

